

AIR POUCH

PRIORITY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Political Adviser, Headquarters, US Army, Europe, Heidelberg
 TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

June 29, 1954

REF : Mydesp #80, subject as above

AMLR INDEX

58 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	IN F O	OTHER	DEPARTMENT OF STATE	PD-1	P-1	L-2	
	REC'D								
	7-9				CIA-7	ARMY-3	NAVY-3	AIR-3	USIA-10

SUBJECT: Americans Imprisoned in the USSR

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 871021

By HP-M/200 NARA, Date 4/24/88

EUR/GER/GPA/
 E. Williams III
 Action transferred to
 EE-Miss James 7/13/54

This office has received the following reports from G-2 of the headquarters. The reports originated at the British Intelligence Office, Goettingen, Germany. The first report concerns a Mr. Harry HOPKINS, and the second report concerns Mrs. Eva MELTZ.

1. Source of information is Isle KOENKE, a German national, who, in January and February 1953 was transferred, together with other prisoners, from Berlin to Vorkuta, USSR, in a train consisting of closed wagons. Every evening the prisoners were detained in the prison of whatever town they arrived at. On or about 10 February 1953, while waiting in the courtyard of the prison at a place called RASATKA, about 200 km east of MOSCOW, Source made the acquaintance of a foreigner, who asked her if she were German, but before the conversation could proceed very far, the stranger was marched off. She met him again next morning on the railway station while waiting for the prison transport and he told her that he was an American citizen, and that his name was HARRY HOPKINS. He was a Major, and in 1945, after the capitulation, he had been in charge of the airfield at BERLIN-TEMPELHOF. He had been arrested in BERLIN by the Russians, but did not say in which Sector, on what date, or under what circumstances, and in 1946 had been sentenced by a Russian military court to ten years forced labour for espionage. According to HOPKINS he had been sent to work as a doctor in a women's forced labour camp (Source did not know where), had escaped from the camp, and made his way to MOSCOW where he had reported to the US Embassy. The latter had assisted him to open a practice in MOSCOW under an assumed name, but he had in due course been discovered, and at the end of 1952 had again been sentenced this time to 25 years forced labour.

HOPKINS was taken off the train at GORKI a day or two later, and Source did not see him again. She describes him as: aged between 35 and 40, height about 5'7", medium build, hair blond and close-cropped, face oval, eyes pale blue. Spoke good German with a marked American accent. Was dressed at the time in the usual prisoners' clothing, i.e. padded jacket and trousers.

WJO'Donoghue/HPFales/gfm

REPORTER

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

611.61251/6-2954

CK
 1954
 7/13/54
 7/13/54

Page 2 of
Desp. No. 83
From POLAD, HEIDELBERG

CONFIDENTIAL
(Classification)

Page _____ of
Encl. No. _____
Desp. No. _____
From _____

2. Source of information is Gerda WESTPHAL (nationality not stated).

During Source's internment in a Russian forced labor camp known as "NAGORNAYA" about 60 kms from SOLIKAMSK, there arrived in February, 1952, another female internee who told Source she was an American citizen, and that her name was Eva MELTZ (German phonetic spelling - actual spelling not known). During the course of the following months, Source saw and spoke to her many times, and gathered that she herself was American born and her home was in NEW YORK, but her husband, although born in the USA, was of Russian parentage. Both Mr. and Mrs. MELTZ had gone to Russia in or about 1939, and not long after their arrival the husband and another male relative (Source assumed it was the husband's father) were arrested, and the husband sentenced to ten years' forced labor for an unknown offense. At the end of the ten years he failed to return, and in the course of her endeavours to obtain more information about her husband's fate, Mrs. MELTZ was herself arrested and sentenced to ten years' forced labor for anti-Soviet propaganda. She had a daughter, now aged about 18, who was living with her husband's mother in MOSCOW in conditions of extreme poverty.

Mrs. MELTZ was described as aged about 40, height about 1.65 meters slim build, hair black, eyes dark, rather prominent teeth. Spoke limited German and less Russian, both with a very marked American accent. She was still in the camp when Source left in June 1953.



Herbert P. Fales,
Foreign Service Officer

Distribution:

HICOG: BONN
HICOG: BE
AmEmbassy Moscow
Peripheral Reporting Unit, Fkft

Am

CONFIDENTIAL